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SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1958

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Medical Officer of Health - NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector - F.E. RAEBURN, M.A.P.H.I.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st June, 1959.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1958.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district remained satisfactory during the year and that there has been no undue incidence of infectious disease.

The vital statistics compare favourably with the Country as a whole.

For the first time in these reports, I have referred to the potential danger to the public health from radiation hazards and the vigilance which will have to be exercised by Environmental Health Authorities on this subject.

I am indebted to Mr. Raeburn your Public Health Inspector for his co-operation and help during the year, and for assistance in preparing this report. I am also indebted to my clerk, Mrs. J. Sammons, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1958.

A. Area - 1,650 acres.
Rateable value: 1st April 1959 - £93,822.
Production of a penny rate: 1958/59 - £330 (estimated).
1959/60 - £358 (estimated).

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,280

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female		Comparative Rates (a) Sherborne U.D.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	46	33	)Rate per 1,000		
Legitimate	42	32	)resident pop:		
Illegitimate	4	1	)= 10.5	13.3	16.4

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	Nil	Nil	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = Nil	Nil	21.6

DEATHS.

Total	45	36	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 11.1	10.6	11.7
Deaths in infants under one year	Nil	1	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil	12.6	22.5

	1958.	1957.	1956.	1955.
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
" " Cancer of the Lungs	Nil	1	1	5
" " Other Cancer	12	7	-	-
" " Coronary Disease (Angina)	10	9	11	5
" " Other Heart or Vascular diseases	30	16	-	-
" " Influenza	Nil	2	2	1
" " Pneumonia	3	6	4	7
" " Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents	1	Nil	1	4
" " Suicide	Nil	Nil	1	Nil
" " Leukaemia & Aleukemia	1	1	1	Nil

B. Nature of the District.

Sherborne is a trading centre of an agricultural area, as well as being a tourist and educational centre. Principal industries include light engineering, glove making, dairies and silk mills.

C. Personal Health Services in the District.

The personal Health Services, including the Ambulance Service, have continued to be provided by the County Council.

Apart from the Home Help Service, which it has not been yet possible fully to develop in your District, the personal health services have been in all respects satisfactory.

The Public Health Laboratory Service have again proved co-operative and efficient.

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Hospital Group) provides the local hospital requirements, both in-patient and out-patient.

Prophylactic Innoculations.

Preventive innoculation against infectious disease is the responsibility of the County Council, through its School Medical and Child Welfare services and the Private Medical Practitioner service.

The normal programme for protection against diphtheria, whooping cough, small pox and tetanus was interfered with by the demands of the poliomyelitis vaccination scheme.

During the year the following treatments were carried out -

Poliomyelitis.

1,112, of those eligible for treatment received the two primary innoculations during the year.

It is estimated that at least 70% of the children in the age group 0 - 15 years received primary treatment by the end of the year.

Diphtheria.

64 children received the two primary treatments and 46 a 'booster' treatment.

Whooping Cough.

80 Children received the three primary treatments (almost 100% of births during the preceding year) and 4 children received a 'booster' dose.

Tetanus.

32 children received the three primary treatments and one child a 'booster' treatment.

Small pox.

75 children (being approximately 90% of the number of births in the preceding year) were vaccinated and 14 persons were re-vaccinated.

D. Environmental Health Services.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is slightly more than one half day per week.

Public Health Inspector - F.E. Raeburn, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Staff - Three clerks (part time).

WATER SUPPLY.

Rainfall -	1956.	1957.	1958.
	27.58 ins.	29.37 ins.	34.12 ins.

Regular monthly samples from each of the Council's supplies totalling 122, were submitted for bacteriological examination and a sample from each source was submitted for chemical examination. Daily testing of the supplies for residual chlorine was carried out. The fluorine content of the supplies was shown to be between 0.2 and 0.3 parts per million.

A number of private well supplies are used in the district for industrial purposes. From these supplies 26 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

2,070 houses in the Urban District are provided with a water supply piped into the house. 64 houses obtain their water by means of standpipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No new works were carried out during the year, but the revised scheme for improvement of the existing sewage works (at an estimated cost of £23,300) received Ministerial approval and it is anticipated that this work will be commenced during 1959.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse. The Local Authority's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

Salvage. Seventy six tons of paper, nine tons of scrap metal and one ton of rags were collected during the year.

Cesspool Emptying. No provision is required to be made in the district.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

The Somerset Rivers Board, in the course of its duties, have continued to exercise close observation on the purity of the River Yeo.

SHOPS ACTS. (Continued overleaf)

SHOPS ACTS.

In addition to the Council's direct responsibilities under the Shops Act, 1950, the Council has also had delegated to it the County Council's functions under Section 38(3) (4) and (5) of the Act.

No. of inspections carried out	9
No. of defects found	1
No. of notices served	1
No. of notices complied with	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	No. of premises on Register.	Inspections.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	7	7
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	54	52
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	-	-
Total	61	59

No. of cases in which defects were:-

	Found	Remedied	Referred by Factory Inspector.
Sanitary Conveniences - Unsuitable or defective	3	5	2
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	-
	5	7	2

No. of Outworkers - 48.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Sixty six smoke observations and visits to plants were made during the year.

One new installation was approved under the Clean Air Act, 1956.

One installation in the town which had been creating smoke nuisance had its chimney stack raised with satisfactory results.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district available for use by the public during part of the year. When used by the public the bath is under the control of the Local Authority and the water is chlorinated and regularly sampled.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No. of moveable dwellings licensed during the year 19
No. of camping sites licensed in the district 3

Although one of the licensed camping sites is reasonably suitable for the use to which it is put, the other one is not altogether satisfactory. Whilst the housing situation has been acute, use of this site has been permitted for a number of caravans, as residential accommodation for prolonged periods.

Consideration was again given to the establishment of a permanent caravan site adjoining Culverhayes Car Park, provided with the necessary sanitary facilities, for the temporary use of tourists passing through the district. The Council decided, however, to take no further action in this direction.

The use of caravans and moveable dwellings for long term occupation is to be discouraged as the accommodation available usually falls short of the statutory standards laid down for dwelling houses. There is however, an increasing need for suitable temporary camping sites with proper sanitary facilities along the main routes to holiday resorts.

There is an ever increasing practice by overnight motorists during busy holiday periods to sleep in their cars on the roadside with a resultant insanitary fouling of roadside verges, hedges and ditches.

When it is appreciated that this occurs the most when weather conditions are at the optimum for the spread of intestinal infections (including poliomyelitis) this increasing danger to the public health can be realised.

Until suitable temporary caravan and camping sites (with proper sanitary facilities) are available en-route, the use of the roadside verge for this purpose cannot reasonably be prohibited.

Situated as your town is half way between London and the Devon and Cornish holiday resorts, it would appear to be ideally situated in which to provide such facilities.

I hope that the time will come when further consideration can be given to the development of the site adjoining the Culverhayes Car Park in this manner.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Two instances of cockroach infestation were successfully treated with Gamexane. One infestation by fleas with D.D.T. and one infestation by crickets with Lindane.

One private dwellinghouse was disinfested from Woodworm by the use of hydrogen cyanide.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The duties of the District Council under The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in the district by The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

The total treatments undertaken in the district during the year numbered 428.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

No. of licensed premises 1
No. of inspections made 1

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47.

No action was called for or taken during the year toward the compulsory removal of a person requiring care and attention under the Act.

HOUSING.

Total number of houses in the district 2,127.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year 81
No. of inspections made 127

No. of informal notices served 4
No. of informal notices complied with 4
No. of statutory notices served Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957 Nil
Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made Nil
Undertakings accepted for -

Closure Nil
Reconditioning 3
Other Action Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year Nil

Slum Clearance.

No further representations were made to you during the year with regard to premises to be dealt with. Progress was made with regard to the demolition of houses already dealt with.

Overcrowding.

Two cases of 'Statutory' overcrowding were found during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Two houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Improvement Grants.

Three applications for Grants were received during the year, of which two were successful.

'Unfit' Houses occupied under Licence.

Two houses on which demolition or closing orders have been made were occupied under licence at the end of the year.

New Houses.

Three new houses were provided by private enterprise during the year and nine by the Council. There are now six hundred and sixty-six Council houses in the district.

Twenty-seven families were rehoused by the Council during the year. At the end of the year the names of one hundred and sixty applicants were on the waiting list of whom fifty were living outside the district.

Toward the end of the year the extensions to Durrant Close were commenced which are designed to provide further dwellings for old people.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949	5
No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949	8
No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949	2
No. of 'distributors' subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949	Nil

Samples

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	9
Pasteurised	31
Undesignated	-

Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	25
Canteens - School and workplace	6
Confectioners	10
Meat and Fish	10
Grocers	9
Mixed Stores	6
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	7
Food Factories	2
Stalls	2
Other	7

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES (Continued)

No. of food premises subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of

Ice-cream	32
Sausages & Prepared Meats	3
Fish and Chips	2

No. of samples of ice-cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test 95

Fifty-nine of the above -mentioned 'food premises' were inspected during the year, one hundred and thirty three inspections being carried out.

Full co-operation was obtained in the enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations and no 'exemption certificates' were recommended or granted.

No observations are called for in respect of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952 which work satisfactorily in the District.

Byelaws in respect of the Handling and Wrapping of Food etc., are operative in the District.

Food Inspection.

Butchers' and Other Shops.

Quantities of foodstuffs condemned - 842 lbs.

Disposal of Condemned Food.

All food condemned at food shops is disposed of at the refuse tip and meat from the slaughterhouses at a knackers yard.

Slaughterhouses. There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

The irregular hours of slaughtering at the Slaughterhouses makes it difficult to achieve a 100% inspection of carcases by your Meat Inspector and does waste time which could usefully be occupied in other public health duties.

Of the 1,469 visits and inspections carried out by your Inspector throughout the year for all purposes, no less than five hundred and fifty-five were to the slaughterhouses for meat inspection. The greater proportion of the animals slaughtered are for 'export' out of the District and although the Ministry do make a grant in respect to the inspection of this meat the amount bears no relationship to the proportion of his time your Inspector devotes to this duty.

Sunday slaughtering is particularly burdensome to your Meat Inspector, but the Council has given what assistance it can in this direction by providing assistance, alternate Sundays, from the Meat Inspector of the Rural District. This assistance is very much appreciated by Mr. Raeburn.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	887	5,342	1,971	1,160
Number Inspected	887	5,342	1,971	1,160
All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:				
Whole carcases condemned	14	14	4	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	66	35	79	231
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	7.89%	0.91%	4.21%	20.0%
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcases condemned	5	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	42	-	-	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	5.29%	-	-	0.94%
Cysticercosis:				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	4	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	1,469
Total No. of informal notices served	25
Total No. of informal notices complied with	21
Total No. of statutory notices served	Nil
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
Total No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -

Disease	Total Cases Notified
Cerebro spinal meningitis	1
Measles	5
Whooping Cough	29
Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Dysentery	1
Erysipelas	1
Primary Pneumonia	3

Tuberculosis -

New Cases Notified	
Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
2	1

Food Poisoning -

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

F. RADIATION HAZARDS.

Artificial Radiation Hazards.

During the year I considered it necessary to draw your attention to a new threat to the public health, which as yet is more potential than real, but one which can be expected to increase year by year. You accepted my recommendation that your Public Health Officers should be afforded every opportunity to enlarge their knowledge of this subject and accepted in principle a proposal for monitoring your district for background radiation. Up to the end of the year I did not consider it necessary to make any further recommendation with regard to a local monitoring service, whilst awaiting the results of Government and other action in this matter.

The position will, however, require to be watched very carefully to ensure that Local Authorities (and their Officers) are allowed to take their proper place (as environmental health authorities) in the control of artificial radiation hazards.

NOEL F. PEARSON

Medical Officer of Health.